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View Book of London Ont.

LONDON, ONTARIO

THE first memorable event in the history of the site of London was the visit of Governor Simcoe in 1792. The Governor thought of locating his capital here, but his early return to the home country changed his plans in this direction. The first house on the site of London was built in 1826 by Peter McGregor. The town site was surveyed in this year and the Court House was built in 1827. In 1838 London was created a municipality and in 1840 it was incorporated as a village with a population of 2000. In 1845 the rising community received a set back in the shape of a fire visitation, but with renewed energy the pioneers of the future metropolis of Western Ontario, rebuilt their town and in 1848 London was incorporated as a town. In 1856 the first railway train came into London, the Great Western. In 1854 London was incorporated as a city with a population of 10,000. In 1861 it had increased to 11,000; in 1871 to 15,000; in 1881 to 19,000; in 1891 to 32,000; in 1901 to 39,000; in 1905 to 42,000. London is the metropolis of Western Canada, being located on the banks of the River Thames and on the lines of the Canadian Pacific, Michigan Central, Pere Marquette and Grand Trunk Railways. It is an important wholesaleing and manufacturing centre. There are within the city limits 4478 acres of ground and 132 miles of streets. Springbank Park on the River Thames, four miles from the city, is a beautiful natural park covering 472 acres, and is a very popular resort. London is called the Forest City owing partly to the fact that its site when first occupied was primeval forest, also partly from the fact that its streets are embowered in beautiful foliage. It is a progressive and flourishing community and with the rapid and steady growth which the future holds for Canada the prosperity of London is assured.

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BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF LONDON FROM ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

SPRINGBANK PARK

NEW ARMOURIES

The building was began in the spring of 1903, and completed and occupied in the fall or 1904.
The total cost of the building was in the neighborood of $160,000.00

COURT HOUSE

The Construction of the County Court House was commenced in March, 1826, and the building was completed the following year. In 1878 the front portion was enlarged to about twice its former size, making six turrets instead of four.

RIVER THAMES AND PIPE LINE ROAD

The River Thames was known to the French as La Tranche (a slice or cut). By the Indians it was called Askunessippi or the Antlered River.

DUNDAS STREET

RICHMOND STREET

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

The Collegiate Institute and site, are valued at $100,000; the number of pupils registered in 1904 was 1000; the staff includes 22 teachers.

RIVER THAMES AND SPRINGBANK PARK

FIRE HALL AND FIRE CHIEF ROE

The fire department of London was organized in 1873 and in 1875 the electric alarm system was inaugurated. There are three fire stations. Fire Chief Roe held office from 1880 till January 6th, 1904. The force was made purely permanent in 1891.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

The London Young Men's Christian Association was established in 1856. Incorporated 1878. The present building was erected in 1896 at a cost (building, lot and furnishings), of $40,000.

A VIEW OF THE GRAND STAND AND SPEEDING TRACK ONE OF THE DAYS OF THE WESTERN FAIR, LONDON

The first fair in London was held as early as 1833. In 1867 the idea of a Western Fair was first agitated. In 1881 Queen's Park was acquired and new buildings were constructed there to the amount of $70,000. The main building is 200 x 80 feet and cost about $25,000.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

BANK OF TORONTO

St. Andrew's Church was opened in a frame building in 1843, being replaced in 1868 by the present structure. This edifice cost $30,000.

LONDON MARKET

In 1835 a patent was issued by Sir John Colborne to provide a market for London. In 1846 there were two markets in the town, an east end market then existing on Wellington street south of King.

NORMAL SCHOOL

Western Ontario Normal School is a handsome building and one of the finest in London. The building was begun in the fall of 1898. It is located on the corner of Wortley road and Almer avenue, and is fitted up in most modern style. Cost of building and equipment about $100,000.

HURON COLLEGE SIMCOE STREET SCHOOL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Huron College is a Theological Institute in connection with the Episcopal Church. It was founded in 1863 and is now in affiliation with the Western University. It was established in 1878 and can confer degrees in Arts, Divinity and Medicine.

The Public Library contains upwards of 18,000 volumes and the annual cost of maintenance is $6,600.

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

SACRED HEART CONVENT

ST. PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

The first Roman Catholic Church in London was dedicated in 1834. In 1850 was begun the erection of the old cathedral, which continued in service for 35 years. The present cathedral was opened in 1885, the corner stone having been laid in 1881.

ST. PAUL'S (ANGLICAN) CATHEDRAL

The First St. Paul's Church, a frame structure, was erected in 1834. It was destroyed by fire in 1841 and its successor was erected in 1846.

VICTORIA PARK

The site of Victoria Park was formerly ordinance lands. After the burning of the old barracks in 1873 these lands became the property of the corporation and Victoria Park was laid out, being dedicated by the Governor-General, Lord Dufferin, on August 7th, 1874. This park covers 20 acres and is a beautiful spot.

CENTRAL AVENUE, LOOKING EAST

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The first Presbyterian church was constructed about 1835. It was burned in 1859 and was re-erected, the following year, of brick.

SOME LONDON RESIDENCES

Mr. W. J. Reid

Mr. T. H. Smallman

Mr. Thos. McCormick

THE THREE BRIDGES—BLACKFRIARS, OXFORD AND C. P. R.

In 1826 Levi Merrick built the first bridge over the Thames into London. The second bridge was that of Blackfriars, erected in 1831 and rebuilt twenty years later. The bridge at the foot of Wellington street was built in 1840. The Ridout street bridge in 1848. In 1875 the erection of the present iron structures began, Blackfriars being the first erected, and Victoria bridge the second. King street bridge was erected in 1898.

MR. LABATT'S RESIDENCE

POST OFFICE

PUMP-HOUSE, SPRINGBANK

The London Waterworks date from 1878 when the works were built on their present site. Sir John Carling and the late W. E. Hyman were in charge. Extensive additions were made from year to year. The waterworks are situated at Springbank which is a natural park. The water is free from all impurities and no city on the continent is furnished with better water, it being fresh from the spring.

POLICE STATION

CUSTOM HOUSE

London was created a customs district in 1854. The present building was commenced in 1870 and was first occupied in 1872.

RESIDENCE OF HON. ADAM BECK

LONDON ROLLING MILLS

LONDON HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE

The Hospital for the Insane occupies 300 acres of land just east of the city. It has accommodation for some 1200 inmates.

WATERLOO STREET

LONDON WEST, SHOWING BLACKFRIARS DAM

DUNDAS STREET BRIDGE, SHOWING COURT HOUSE AND SULPHUR SPRINGS

RESIDENCE OF HON. C. S. HYMAN

RESIDENCE OF MR. NICHOLAS WILSON

Mr. Nicholas Wilson in 1897 completed a 50-year term as a school teacher in London, and this exceptional event was celebrated by the presentation to him of a complimentary address and $1,000.00 in gold.

WOLSELEY BARRACKS

VICTORIA HOSPITAL

The London Hospital was built in 1898. It is most complete in its equipment comprising administration buildings, children's ward, consumptive's ward, and commodious pavilions for the sick. It cost upwards of $100,000. It is managed by a trust. Previous to this various buildings were occupied as hospitals.

RESIDENCE OF COL. CULVER, U.S. CONSUL

J. W. LITTLE'S COUNTRY RESIDENCE, SPRINGBANK

LONDON HUNT CLUB

LONDON BOWLING CLUB

STORE OF S. H. KNOX & CO, LONDON

One of this enterprising syndicate's 69 stores located in the leading cities of the United States and Canada. A very popular resort.